

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
TYLER DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

DURRELL LEE HOPKINS (1)

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CASE NO. 6:18-CR-55-JDK

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
ON REVOCATION OF SUPERVISED RELEASE

On October 13, 2020, the Court held a final revocation hearing on a Petition for Warrant or Summons for Offender under Supervision. The Government was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Allen Hurst. Defendant was represented by Assistant Federal Defender Ken Hawk.

Background

After pleading guilty to the offense of Possession of Unregistered Firearm, a Class C felony, Defendant Durrell Lee Hopkins was sentenced on February 21, 2019 by United States District Judge Thad Heartfield. The offense carried a statutory maximum imprisonment term of 10 years. The guideline imprisonment range, based on a total offense level of 17 and a criminal history category of I, was 24 to 30 months. Defendant was sentenced to 24 months of imprisonment to be followed by a 1-year term of supervised release. Defendant's supervision is subject to the standard conditions of release, plus special conditions to include financial disclosures and substance abuse testing and treatment.

Defendant completed his term of imprisonment and started his term of supervised release on May 29, 2020. The case was re-assigned to United States District Judge Jeremy D. Kernodle on September 21, 2020.

Allegations

In the Petition seeking to revoke Defendant's supervised release, filed on September 17, 2020, United States Probation Officer Daisy Pridgen alleges that Defendant violated the following condition of supervised release:

- 1. Allegation 1 (mandatory condition 3): You must refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. you must submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court.** It is alleged that Defendant submitted urine specimens on May 29, 2020, June 30, 2020, July 30, 2020, and August 28, 2020 that tested positive for marijuana.

Applicable Law

According to 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3), the Court may revoke the term of supervised release and require a Defendant to serve in prison all or part of the term of supervised release without credit for the time previously served under supervision, if it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that Defendant violated a term of supervised release. Supervised release shall be revoked upon a finding of a Grade A or B supervised release violation. U.S.S.G. § 7B1.3(a)(1). In the present case, Defendant's original offense of conviction was a Class C felony. Accordingly, the maximum imprisonment sentence that may be imposed is 2 years of imprisonment. 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e).

Under the Sentencing Guidelines, which are non-binding,¹ if the Court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that Defendant violated his conditions of supervised release as alleged in the petition, he is guilty of a Grade C violation. U.S.S.G. § 7B1.1(a). Defendant's

¹ The United States Sentencing Guidelines as applied to revocations of supervised release "have always been non-binding, advisory guides to district courts in supervised release revocation proceedings." *United States v. Brown*, 122 Fed.Appx. 648, 2005 WL 518704, slip op. p.1 (citing *United States v. Davis*, 53 F.3d 638, 642 (5th Cir. 1995)); see also *United States v. Mathena*, 23 F.3d 87 (5th Cir. 1994) (policy statements contained in Chapter 7 of the Sentencing Guidelines applicable to sentencing a defendant upon revocation of supervised release are advisory only.).

original criminal history category was I. The guidelines provide that Defendant's guideline range for a Grade C violation is 3 to 9 months of imprisonment.

Hearing

On October 13, 2020, Defendant appeared for a final revocation hearing. Assistant United States Attorney Allen Hurst announced that Defendant and the Government reached an agreement for Defendant to enter a plea of true to Allegation 1 of the petition and to jointly request a sentence of 4 months of imprisonment with no further supervised release. After the Court explained to Defendant his right to a revocation hearing, he waived his right to a revocation hearing and entered a plea of "true" to Allegation 1 of the petition. Defendant requested a recommendation for designation at FCI Texarkana.

Findings and Conclusions

I find that Defendant is competent and that his plea and waiver of the revocation hearing was knowingly and voluntarily made. I accept Defendant's plea and find by a preponderance of the evidence that Allegation 1 of the petition is true. Defendant is guilty of a Grade C supervised release violation. I further find and conclude that Defendant's term of supervised release should be revoked and that he should be sentenced to 4 months of imprisonment with no further supervised release. Any criminal history monetary penalties previously ordered in the final judgment should be imposed in this revocation, with all payments collected credited towards outstanding balances.

RECOMMENDATION

In light of the foregoing, it is recommended that Defendant's plea of true to Allegation 1 of the petition be **ACCEPTED** and that Defendant's term of supervised release be **REVOKED**. It is further recommended that Defendant be sentenced to 4 months of imprisonment with no further supervised release. Any criminal monetary penalties previously ordered in the final

judgment should be imposed in this revocation, with all payments collected credited towards outstanding balances.

Before the conclusion of the hearing, the undersigned announced the foregoing recommendation and notified Defendant of his right to object to this Report and Recommendation and to be present and allocute before being sentenced by the Court. Defendant waived those rights and executed a written waiver in open court. The Government also waived its right to object to the Report and Recommendation. It is therefore recommended that the Court revoke Defendant's supervised release and enter a Judgment and Commitment for him to be sentenced to 4 months of imprisonment with no further supervised release.

So ORDERED and SIGNED this 13th day of October, 2020.



K. NICOLE MITCHELL
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE